

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - November 29, 2007

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Adam Rivard, MDOT; Nick Perfili, MDOT; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Susan Berquist, MDOT; Terry Moulthane, Bay City; and Rachael Tupica, FHWA.

It was moved by Rivard, seconded by Gaydos, to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2007 meeting. Motion Passed.

Status of 2008-11 TIP:

Perfili explained that the TIP has already been reviewed by MDOT and has now been forwarded to the Office of Federal Highway for review. MDOT has not completed the STIP and there are still MPOs around the State that haven't turned in their TIPs, which in turn holds up the completion of the STIP. There are still a couple minor changes that are required for the BCATS TIP per (Rachael/MDOT). One of the issues is that the 2008 I-75 project was coded incorrectly and needs to be listed as a Widen/Major rather than as a Reconstruct. MDOT has requested another STIP extension to the end of January, 2008.

Corrections/Amendments to 2006-08 TIP and 2008-11 TIP:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout which lists the various corrections and amendments that need to be made to the 2008-11 TIP. The 2008-11 TIP reflected exactly what is in the 2006-08 TIP for year 2008, but there have been changes and corrections. One such change/amendment is that the 2008 tables don't match. Another correction is that the project line items under Bay Metro got "joined" rather than being listed as separate projects. There are also some cost corrections.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Gaydos, to make favorable recommendation to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the correction/amendments listed on the handout to the 2006-08 TIP and the 2008-11 TIP. Motion passed.

Henry Street Project Cost:

Engelhardt discussed that the STP funds allocated in the TIP for the Henry Street Project was more than the actual project bid amounts. Once the State awards this project, it will leave a considerable amount of money unallocated in the TIP. There is a potential for a reallocation of these funds for other projects. There is a desire by the city to take the extra money allocated to the Henry Street Project and use it to fund the Harrison Street Project. The Harrison Street Project has recently been identified by the City of Bay City for 2009. The Harrison Street Project has not been scheduled yet, however the scheduling should be solidified by the city in the next few months.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Lillo, to make favorable recommendation to the BCATS Policy Committee to explore the possibility of reclassifying the current NFC classification of the non federal four blocks of the Harrison Street Project in NFC system to determine if it can be eligible for STP funds.

Inflation Factors in Project Costs:

Engelhardt discussed the December 11, 2007 deadline for having all TIP changes submitted to the State. Therefore, Engelhardt needs any changes or corrections by December 7th so he can

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make any necessary changes to the Long Range Plan. Also, Engelhardt would like to know which agencies used the inflation factor for project costs, and which haven't. Engelhardt discussed the importance of having everyone use the inflation factor when projecting project costs. Agencies should provide project costs to Engelhardt with the inflation factor.

Consumers Energy New Power Plant Update:

BCATS will need to take a look at the Consumers Energy expansion to determine what impact it will have on the generation of additional/new traffic to the area. The main road that will be affected by the expansion will be Pine Street in Essexville. BCATS should try to forecast the impact the expansion will have on traffic and find out what Consumers Energy plans to do to help with the issue. Engelhardt along with Majerczyk would like to speak with Consumers Energy in January, 2008 to see what plans they have for the 2010 expansion.

Regional Trail Group:

Engelhardt discussed the November, 2007 Trail Summit that took place in Frankenmuth. There was a good turnout and positive show of support at the summit. The Saginaw Regional Trail Group has a grant which they plan to use to look at potential trail connectivity. The trail connecting SVSU and Delta College is making good headway.

Traffic County Program:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout and discussed the importance of the procurement and maintenance of the traffic counts for Bay County. Westbury gave an overview of the handout provided and noted that there were drops in traffic flow.

E-Proposal Bidding Process:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout and gave an overview. This was presented as an informational item.

BCATS Annual Report:

Each year BCATS places a half-page ad in the Bay City Times. The purpose of the ad is to inform the public of BCATS activities and upcoming activities/projects. Engelhardt is looking for input and ideas for the BCATS Annual Report. The deadline to have the report placed in the Bay City Times is mid-December, before the Policy Committee Meeting on December 19, 2007.

Project Updates:

The **North Henry Street Project Phase II & III** will begin March 10, 2008 and are expected to be completed November 15, 2008. The **Woodside Avenue Project** is complete. The **Pine Road Project** for reconstruction is almost complete and will be open in spring of 2008. The **Seven Mile Road Project** is in the design phase with construction occurring in 2008. The **Depot Project** is going well and the completion date will be April, 2008.

Other/New Business:

State Funding:

Engelhardt felt that it would be beneficial to have someone from the State speak to the BCATS group about funding during the next meeting.

Act 51:

Engelhardt discussed Act 51 and the problems the mandate is creating for the City of Bay City. It's important to understand where they will allow money to be spent under Act 51. Engelhardt believes that signage does constitute an eligible expense. Would like

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to see sidewalk maintenance fall under the 1% use of Act 51 money. He will look into this matter further and report back to the committee.

Bay Metro Grant:

Bay Metro was awarded a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant to provide off-hour access for Bay County residents for the purpose of easier access to job locations. This is a new program. Bay Metro will be able to subsidize the local cab company to get people to and from their places of employment during hours when the buses aren't in service.

Report on Modeling:

Engelhardt has a new publication on Travel Demand Modeling and it is available to review in his office.

Travel Demand Model:

Engelhardt briefly discussed the Travel Demand Model. There was a question about how the bridge closures have affected the counts.

Tom Hickner Ridge Road Letter:

Mr. Hickner sent a follow-up letter to Bill Keipert of the Columbus Avenue Management Board regarding the beautification of the Farmer's Market and improvements to Ridge Road. Ridge Road is listed in the BCATS Long Range Plan. This is an information item.

Bike Maps:

Copies of the Bay Region bike map are now available.

As there was no further business, the November 29, 2007 BCATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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